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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 23 | Humidity 57% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 57,527 | Nifty 16,945 | Gold 59,890 | Silver 76,000 | Dollar 82.48 | Euro 88.77 | GBP 100.73

CITY / PAGE 5

ODE TO THEATRE

BM catches up with theatre artists who share stories about their passion

CITY / PAGE 7

PALIKE PREP

'Teaching staff vacancies filled up; infra in place, books, uniform given'

There exists a huge difference between what is taught in classrooms and what IT industry expects, freshers facing brunt of learning gap tell BM

THOU SHALL NOT SKILL?

Freshers face delay in onboarding process at tech firms

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Fresh graduates who secured jobs at IT firms through campus placements are experiencing a delay in the onboarding process. The delay is caused due to mandatory training sessions, BM found out.

While most of the trainee employees claimed that the mandatory training sessions don't align with their bachelor's degrees, some of them argued that the projects that they enroll themselves have nothing to do with the intensive training sessions they attended.

"I completed my BE in Information Science and Engineering. After my placement, I was on the bench for around 10 months without being assigned any project. Although I was getting paid I did not get any appraisal. I was asked to complete the training session after which I was allocated projects without any choice,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

> **"Fear of being unemployed and uncertainty of landing a new job kept me waiting though I saw my batch-mates already working on projects in the same company; it disheartened me**
>
> — fresher at tech firm

How tech is blocking crucial pensions

Citizens protest as hundreds are deprived of pensions due to Aadhaar linking issue

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In Bengaluru, approximately 300 senior citizens have not received their pensions for the past eight months, according to a quick survey conducted by Slum Mahila Sanghatane.

The organisation has been working for the development of underprivileged communities — in 40 slums in the city for the last five years through unions of women residing in these settlements. Over 150 people protested outside the Bengaluru Urban deputy commissioner's office demanding pensions to be released.

Of these citizens, around 90% belong to SC communities; they also include the elderly and single patients with various health issues. Many of them have stopped taking their medications due to financial constraints, which is critical given their health conditions.

BM had recently reported how

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Karnad forever

This April, do not miss the chance to watch Girish Karnad"s iconic play 'Tughlaq' in Kannada. Directed by S Surendranath, the play casts some of the theatre, TV, and film actors. The play presents political strategies, conflicts, religious intrigues, and personal relationships in an eccentric way. This play aims to make it more relevant to the present day, to 2023. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: April 4-6; 7:30 pm**

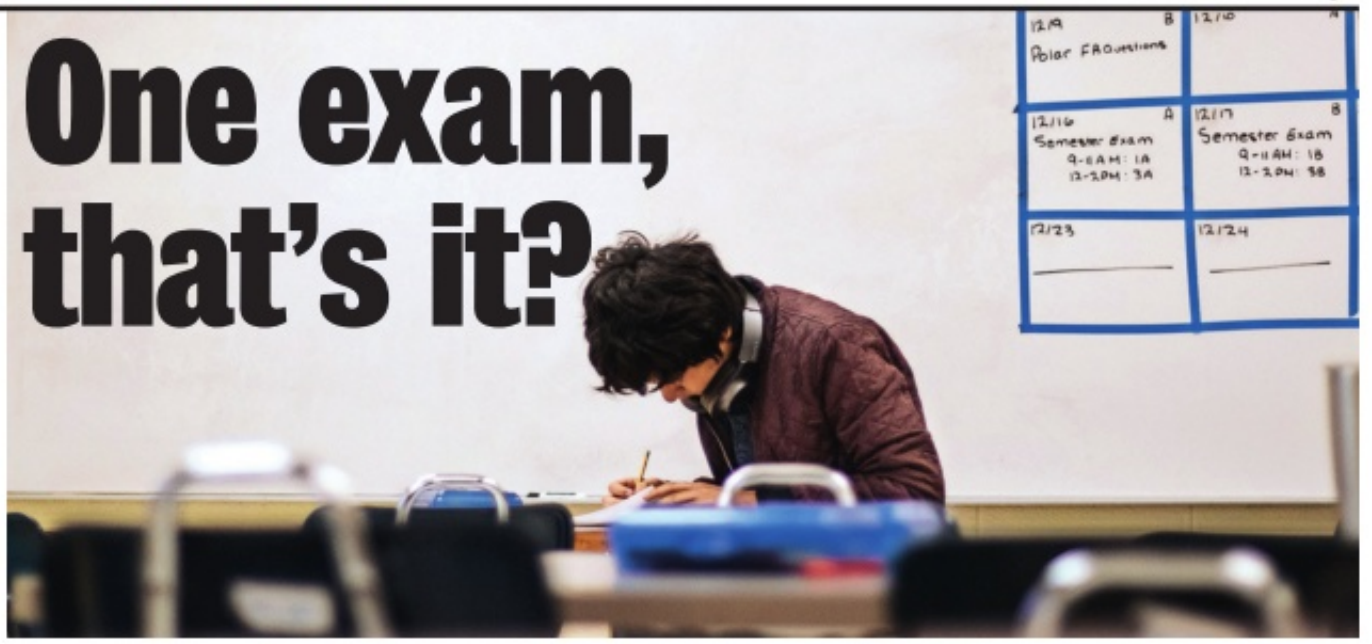
02 At the moment

One of the most happening places in the city is bringing 'Sauce' which is more than a festival. A celebration that aims to bring tech enthusiasts, foodies, art and music lovers, and performers to one single platform to indulge in the world of innovation and creativity. From fashion, NFT, crypto, gaming, and more the festival has it all.
Where: Moongate Events Venue
When: Saturday, April 8; 12 noon to 10 pm

03 Play scenes

Antharanga, a theatre group from Karnataka plans to perform 'Wedding Ring', a new play that has been written by Abhishek Iyengar and Archana Shyam. The play portrays the meaning of love, marriage, and relationship. It also presents conflicts that come with relationships and materialistic life.
Where: Rangashankara; When: March 29; 7:30 pm

One exam, that's it?



Government's idea to conduct single common entrance exam for aspirants of private engineering colleges sparks debate among students and colleges

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The aspiration of the government to admit ambitious individuals into private engineering colleges based on a single common entrance test (CET) remains unfulfilled. The cause for this is the disapproval of private universities to enroll aspirants on the basis of a single common entrance exam.

The higher education department organised a meeting with the vice-chancellors of various private universities with the agenda of conducting a single common entrance test to enroll aspirants into their preferred private universities for the academic year 2023-2024.

Despite the difference of opinions expressed by the private universities, the government has given hope to aspirants regarding the enrolment of students based on a single CET.

"I personally think that a single CET is sufficient for enrolling oneself into engineering colleges or universities. The fee structure for individuals who join colleges and universities through the entrance tests that are conducted by the organisation is comparatively quite high. When everyone receives the same lectures and the same degree it becomes unfair to pay extra and get a degree" said an engineering aspirant. "Having to write a single CET is much more helpful than having to write several CET. It definitely reduces the stress and confusion among students" said Amogh, a student.

However, Akshay, an engineering student, told Bangalore Mirror that having a single entrance test is not sufficient.

"The only benefit of clearing a government CET is that it gives us the liberty to choose our preferred college. Individuals who enroll themselves through the CET organised by the institution are provided with several benefits such as hostel facilities," he said.

Students from a state board of studies will find it difficult to crack exams like AIEEE and JEE in comparison to individuals who come from an ICSE or CBSE board of studies. This is mainly because of the gap in the syllabus covered, he added.

Currently, private colleges have called for applicants to enroll students for the management quota through Consortium of Medical, Engineering, and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMED-K).

Similarly, several private universities have also called for applicants for numerous entrance tests under various names for the enrolment of students.

At present, Karnataka has 24 private universities and 11 deemed-to-be universities. Most universities have already commenced entrance exams for students.

> **"CET conducted by private universities and colleges are purely based on merit and our performance**
> – Kavya, an engineering student

"Having private universities and colleges conduct their own entrance test is a good initiative in the education system. CET conducted by private universities and colleges are purely based on merit and our performance. Government-related entrance tests are influenced by reservations," said Kavya, another engineering student.

"Having a single CET is rather helpful. CET must be conducted purely on the basis of merit rather than reservations. If reservations are to be considered, it should be based on income," said an engineering educator.

AICTE proposes placement aid for rural areas

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is now mulling to allow core engineering faculty members to teach in emerging areas from 2024-25.

The advisory body has already allowed core engineering faculty members to teach courses in emerging areas within the department. If these teachers certified themselves with NPTEL MOOC courses, AICTE plans to allow them to teach in other departments as well.

In fact, with many engineering college students worried over placements, the AICTE has now proposed placement assistance for rural and semi-urban areas. It will launch a placement portal for engineering colleges in rural areas and semi-urban areas, for which more than 500 industries have agreed to be partners.

Recently, AICTE chairman TG Sitharam said that the council had created more than 2.5 lakh internships in the last three months in the core engineering sector through a web portal. He also emphasised not to close down core engineering departments due to lack of students. "Students are joining courses where the jobs are. Jobs are plenty in IT-related and financial areas.

We have come up with an idea of offering minor degrees in emerging areas while keeping the core engineering intact. In addition to the 160 credits, a civil engineering student or a mechanical engineering student can do a minor in IoT or data science by getting additional 18 credits," said Sitharam.

Reacting to this proposal, Vivek Rai, an engineering student said, "For every student placement plays a very important role. In fact, while choosing a college, the first thing in our mind is whether the companies visit the campus for placements or not. Hence, many colleges, especially those in rural areas lose out in placements, and this is a big setback for students. However, it is not possible for every student to join the top colleges."

AICTE's proposal to conduct placements in semi-urban and rural areas will create a level playing field for all the students, as every student will get an equal opportunity to take the placements and get jobs. These

days, we hear about job losses everywhere, which has disheartened the students who are about to take the placements. I hope the AICTE rolls out the new plan so that it will help students get placed, he added.

Meanwhile, AICTE has translated textbooks for diploma courses and engineering first and second year into 13 languages, including Tamil. "Professors from IITs and NITs have developed these books. So far, more than one lakh students have downloaded these books from the AICTE's portal," Sitharam informed. **— BMB**

Uneasy lies the night: Police 'keeping eye out' in Ejipura

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Residents of Ejipura claim the area is becoming increasingly unsafe to be out at night. Some residents BM spoke to said they had seen instances of drug peddling too.

Manjunath, who owns a shop near Rama temple, says recently he saw a few men under the influence of alcohol roaming around on bikes late at night, disturbing residents of the area.

"I saw two men riding a two-wheeler recklessly. Then they stopped on the side of the road and were smoking. These days, I have witnessed more instances of men smoking weed on the road and creating disturbance," he said.

Another resident of the area, Sanjana* (name changed on request) was standing outside her PG with her friend at around 3 am, when she was approached by the police warning her that drug peddlers and miscreants are on a rise in the area.

"I was just standing outside on the street with my friend when two policemen on bikes stopped and started questioning us. They asked for our ID cards and address proof. When we asked why they are doing this, we were informed by them that several complaints have been registered of drug peddlers roaming around the area and harassing people. They told us that the miscreants have also robbed people at knife point in Ejipura. After that day, I stopped going outside late at night," she said.

Supriya Mehta, an advocate, who often comes home at night says that she has never seen police patrolling in the area.

"It can be a bit scary travelling to Ejipura at night because you spot certain people on the road standing in isolated corners late at night. I have never seen police cars or bikes in the area at night. There was only one time when I saw police in Ejipura early in the morning. I think if there are police personnels on the road at night, it can be safer," she said.

The Viveknagar police says that they have increased patrolling in Ejipura.

"Twenty days ago, we arrested two drug peddlers in the area at night. Both of them were around 20 years of age. We have increased the patrolling and we are keeping an eye on such activities. As of now, we have not received a lot of complaints regarding drugs, the patrolling is happening normally just to keep the area safe," said the police.

Smells awful

Residents of HSR Layout want a closure to their waste-processing plant issue ASAP

The plant located at Kudlu was shut briefly after protests

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Residents of HSR Layout submitted a petition to MLA Satish Reddy demanding the shutdown of the infamous KCDC waste-processing plant in southern Bengaluru.

The residents have been making this demand for close to five years now. The plant is located at Kudlu along the Hosur Main Road and belongs to the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation (KCDC). Residents of the area say that the health of people living in and around the Kudlu area including children and the elderly gets affected due to the unbearable stench and harmful and toxic gases from the composting plant.

"For the residents who live near the composting plants, it has become impossible to even open our windows due to the choking foul air... The stench gets even worse when it rains," a resident of the area told Bangalore Mirror.

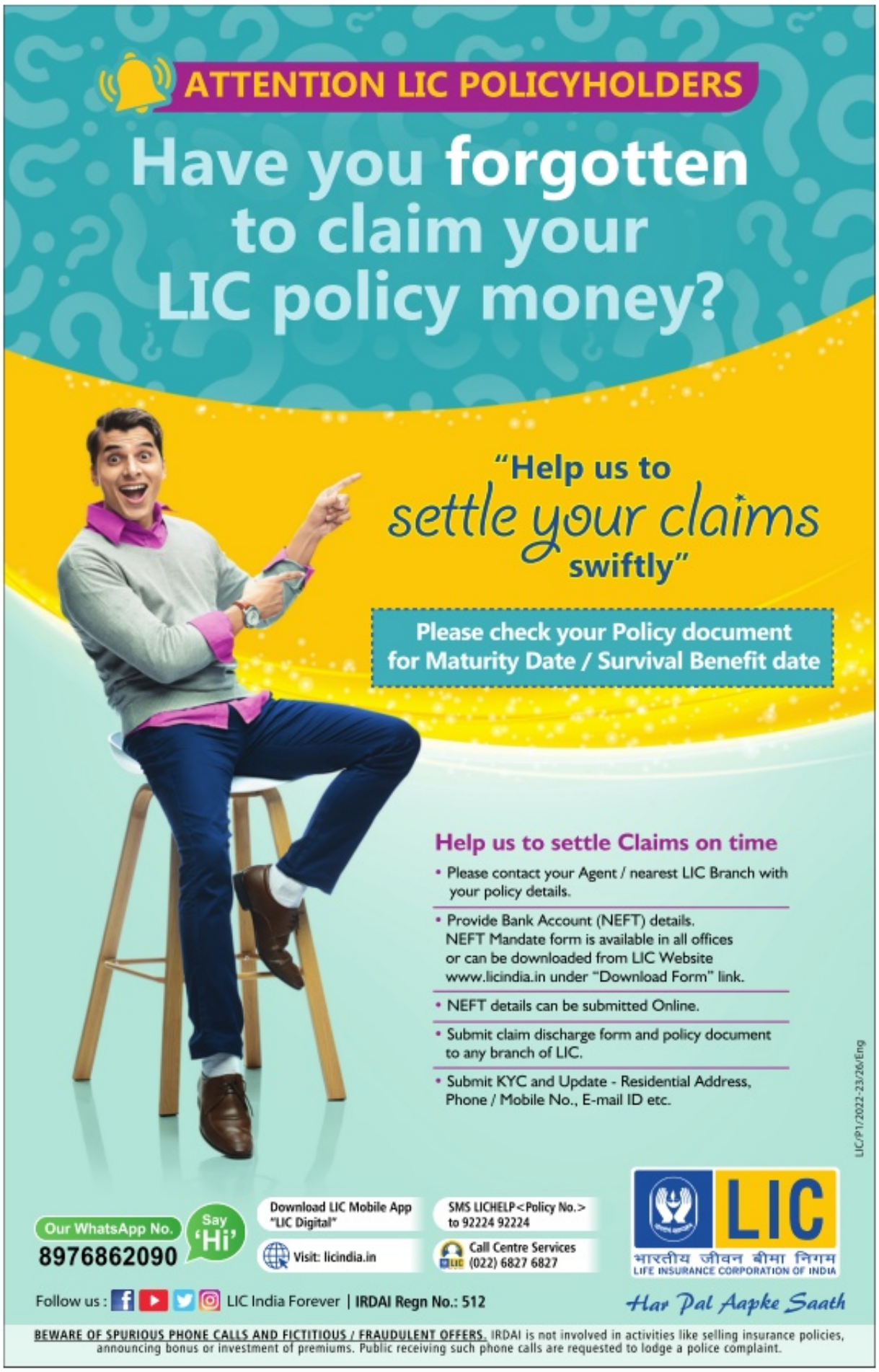
The residents had been fighting against the functioning of the plant since 2018, and last year after consistent complaints the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) inspected the plant and ordered its closure for not following the standard operating procedure, However, it was started again by the KCDC later in the year leaving the residents furious.

The residents were assured that the plant was reopened only after all the conditions imposed by the KSPCB were met. However, the residents argue that the plant is processing more than 120 tonnes of waste per day with a much lower capacity, which is causing the stench. The residents also complained that often the post-processed waste is dumped outside the plant.

> **"It is unacceptable that the residents are being denied their right to clean and fresh air. We want our children to have a better and healthier future**
>
> –A resident of HSR Layout

"It is unacceptable that the residents are being denied their right to clean and fresh air. We want our children to have a healthier future and that is the reason we are demanding this plant be shut down completely. It shouldn't have been operating around a residential space like this in the first place," another resident complained.

The residents had started an online petition seeking the closure of the KCDC plant that is close to getting 1,500 signatures already. The residents told Bangalore Mirror that when they submitted the petition, the MLA assured them that the composting plant will be closed down in a phased manner. He told them as of now, the plant only processes wet waste from Bommanahalli.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Weeds to water sports

On Sunday morning, residents of Pai Layout and nearby areas gathered to witness a demo of kayaking and canoeing at Benniganahalli Lake

Benniganahalli Lake's rejuvenation is model for other lakes in Bengaluru

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Benniganahalli Lake was full of weeds, garbage, and sewage until a few years ago. Now, the lake is clean, and a lot of developmental work has been in progress for the last two years. The lake has become a potential destination for organising water sports.

On Sunday morning, residents of Pai Layout and nearby areas gathered to witness a demo of kayaking and canoeing. The demo was organised by Benniganahalli Kere Community Development Trust in association with Kayaking and Canoeing Association of Karnataka. People gathered at the lake and witnessed demos for kayaking single, kayaking double, canoeing single, canoeing double, canoeing slalom, kayaking fours, touring kayak, and dragon boat.

Kayaking and Canoeing Association of Karnataka secretary Captain Deleep Kumar OC said that the objective of the demo was to promote water sports among children.

"I consider Benniganahalli Lake an ideal location for children to have basic training in kayaking and canoeing. It is a lake that is accessible for all from different locations in the city. It has road connectivity and is expected to get metro connectivity shortly. We are planning to have a memorandum of understanding with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for using the lake to train children," he said.

The Kayaking and Canoeing Association of Karnataka has the training facility at Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake near Medahalli, but he said it is not accessible for many people. "Girls find it difficult to come for training," he told Bangalore Mirror.

Puneeth Kumar K, who has been training in rowing for the last five years, said, "Although Benniganahalli Lake is small, water in the lake is clean and better than Yele Mallappa Shetty Lake."

Benniganahalli Kere Development Community Trust secretary NH Subramanian said that the demos were done by national champions. "The event will encourage residents to visit the lake and see the developmental work taken up over a period of time. Since metro work is going on on one side of the lake, the public is not aware of the developmental work going on," he informed.

President of the Trust, R Nagaraj, said there are plans to organise more such events in the near future. "We want to make Benniganahalli Lake a model lake in Bengaluru," he added.

Appreciating the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) authorities for developing the lake, treasurer of the Trust, VL Anupama, opined that allowing water sports at the lake would help with its maintenance too. "The BMRCL has taken up many developmental projects here. The children's park is ready and fencing is in progress. There will be two entry gates for this lake," she said.

Meanwhile, Balaji Raghothaman, a lake activist, said that such events should be organised in all city lakes. "Organising water sports not only creates awareness among the public but also encourages parents to allow their children to train in kayaking and canoeing. This will create employment opportunities for youngsters as trainers and support staff. It will be a win-win situation for everyone," he said.

> **"Organising sports events creates awareness among the public and encourages parents to allow their kids to train**
> – Balaji Raghothaman, lake activist

Missing links to Whitefield to be filled by June

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The metro services received good feedback from the commuters as the revenue service began between KR Pura and Whitefield-Kadugodi on Sunday. However, commuters who are boarding the train from other lines cannot buy a direct ticket. For instance, a commuter boarding from MG Road cannot buy a ticket to Whitefield for now. Instead, they can buy a ticket to any station on the Purple line like for SV Road or Baiyappanahalli and then buy a ticket at KR Pura towards Whitefield and other stations.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) Managing Director Anjum Parwez clarified that if a commuter is buying tickets, they have to buy from stations in this line (KR Pura to Whitefield) as of now as direct tickets cannot be given from other stations.

However, metro officials are hopeful that they will be able to connect the missing link of KR Pura and Baiyappanahalli by June this year. Parwez said, "For long, we have wanted to connect the metro network to Whitefield. In fact, the entire project had a lot of challenges as the depot work and line laying works took longer than expected. We had given a strict deadline to the team on finishing this project. Around 1,400 people had worked for Whitefield metro. Yet, we had technical issues in laying railway girders which delayed the missing link works. But we are hopeful that we will provide the missing link connectivity by the last week of June. We will then have seamless metro connectivity between Kengeri and Whitefield-Kadugodi." Currently, Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses are offering feeder services.

Commuters travelling from Whitefield to KR Pura metro station which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday

Metro has 63 stations now

With the new addition, the Namma Metro network now has 63 Stations. The new stations on the KR Pura-Whitefield route are Krishnarajapura, Singayyanapalya, Garudacharpalya, Hoodi, Seetharam Palya, Kundalahalli, Nallur Halli, Sri Sathya Sai Hospital, Pattandur Agrahara, Kadugodi Tree Park, Hopefarm Channasandra, and Whitefield (Kadugodi). This route will be operated with five trains with six coaches each bought from BEML Limited. Additionally, two more trains will be kept as back up.

"The Rolling Stock is equipped with state-of-the-art technology with microprocessor-controlled air conditioning, brakes, propulsion, public information, and surveillance systems. All the subsystems of the train are monitored by a computerised train management system. The train set employs an energy efficient propulsion system with regenerative braking feature which saves around 30-35 per cent of energy consumption. The train is equipped with an air suspension system providing a very smooth and comfortable ride to passengers," said a metro official.

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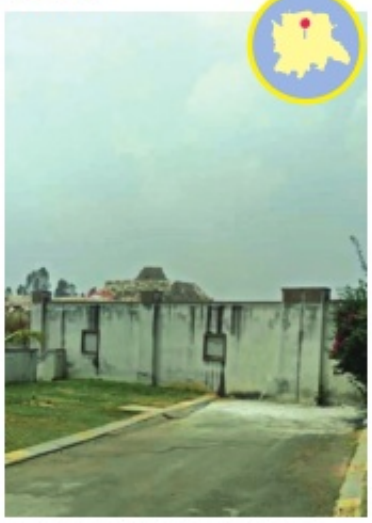

This small hill near a forgotten lake behind Green Field School in Jakkur is being removed.

Accident prone

Indiranagar

There is an accident waiting to happen in 100 feet road, Indiranagar, between metro pillars 62 and 63.

Instructions unclear

Cubbon Road

Right turn or no right turn? The sign on BRV junction, Cubbon Road is not clear.

It's 'mission iftar' at government hospitals

Volunteers from Beyond Boundaries, Project Smile are providing snack packs

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Ramadan, the holy month for Muslims, is a 30-day period of fasting, praying, and self-reflection. While many carry out their daily routine during the fasting period, a group of volunteers in the city are coming forward to provide iftar for attendees at government hospitals who are distressed and hardly have time to get themselves a meal.

Volunteers from Beyond Boundaries and Project Smile are on a mission to provide 30-day iftar snacks for such citizens.

The idea for the initiative came from Mohammed Ibrahim Akram from Beyond Boundaries. He had recently visited a private hospital when his son fell sick and realised how distressed attendees can be at hospitals with their patients. He said, "At least in private hospitals, you have access to a canteen. But in government hospitals, it is very difficult to get food. Hence, we decided to give them iftar snacks."

The snack pack contains samosa, a bottle of water, buttermilk, a banana, and a packet of wafers, coming at a cost of Rs 45 per packet. The idea is to distribute 750 packets per day. In the past three days of Ramadan, over 2,250 packets have been distributed across many government hospitals in the city including Bowring and Lady Curzon, Government HSIS Gosha, Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology Cancer Research and Training Centre, NIMHANS, and Victoria Hospital.

The idea for the initiative came from Mohammed Ibrahim Akram from Beyond Boundaries

As of now, the volunteers are using their own funds to provide the iftar packets. They aim to provide the packets for all 30 days of Ramadan. They have a written verse on each packet that says, "He is not a believer whose stomach is filled while his neighbour is hungry." They are following the verse and distributing the packets all around. Even non-Muslim attendees who are being provided the packets.

The volunteers gather at the Khadriya Masjid at Nandidurga road to make the snack packets. Over 350 packets are made there, and the other 400 are made at Basavanagudi by the Project Smile team.

Aamina Murtuza, an attendee at Gosha hospital, expressed her appreciation for the initiative, saying, "It was very nice to see a set of volunteers carrying out this initiative. At hospitals, we hardly get to know how time passes and there are times we can't head back home, leaving the patient. So, we end up breaking our fast with water and later see what we can eat when we get some time. Now with the snacks, it is easy on the stomach, filling and refreshing. Carrying out such good deeds during Ramadan will multiply their rewards."

World Theatre Day

Living to perform: An ode to theatre

Bangalore Mirror catches up with theatre artists who share stories about their passion

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Theatre artists said that they need a lot more support from the state government to keep the art afloat

In the era of social media, theatre remains largely overlooked, but theatre artists have not lost hope.

While theatre is looked at as a form of entertainment, Belur Raghunandan pursued it to overcome his insecurities. The self-taught professional said, "We live in a society where social media influencers are also becoming artists. Having contributed to the theatre industry for more than 25 years, I can proudly say that the art form has not changed. Instead, the manner in which the realities of society are represented has changed over the years. Even today, theatre artists focus on reflecting the realities of society."

He further said that humble attempts made by theatre artists are always appreciated by the audience despite the rise in other mediums of entertainment.

Addressing the hardships and difficulties faced by the theatre artists, Geetha Surathkal, a renowned artist, said that theatre is a platform that teaches immense sincerity and the value of time to anyone who respects the art. "An artist passionate about theatre can encounter several problems in their journey. There are a lot of uncertainties in this industry. OTT platforms, daily soaps, and cinema can affect theatre to a certain extent. Every industry has its own difficulties. For a young artist, it is very important to have a financial backup in order to earn a living as well as to support their passion for theatre." She said that theatre artists need a lot more support from the state government. The Kannada theatre Industry has a long way to go in terms of development and acknowledgment in comparison to theatre industries of other states. The grants provided by the government to these artists is not sufficient to cover their expenses, she added.

Mohan Sheni, a graduate of Ninasum, is a 10th graduate who could not clear his 12th or diploma. He tried a lot of jobs, but theatre was the only place that accepted him for who he is. "I am not just an artist. I can take responsibility backstage as well. I am well-aware of the hardships that an artist can face. Irrespective of that, I am eternally grateful to this form of art," he told Bangalore Mirror.

Rakshitha is a young artist who desires to take up theatre as her full-time profession. Her parents wanted her to take up journalism, but given the chance, she would not mind devoting her time only to theatre. She told BM, "I know theatre is not a well-paid job, but the mere fact that I can be who I want to be and express my emotions and feelings is really exhilarating." She further said that the raw reaction and appreciation from the audience for a budding artist like herself is truly motivating and rewarding.

> "I know theatre is not a well-paid job, but the mere fact that I can be who I want to be and express my emotions and feelings is really exhilarating
>
> – Rakshitha, young theatre artist

On the occasion of World Theatre Day, March 27 is celebrated to commemorate the art.

Man kills friend after argument

A man killed his friend who was a fortune-teller under the influence of alcohol in Govindarajanagar. The victim has been identified as Naresh, and the accused is Marimuthu.

The deceased lived in Govindarajanagar with his wife and two children. On March 25, at 11 am, Naresh went out drinking with Marimuthu. At the bar, they got into a fight, and Marimuthu killed Naresh.

Police arrested the accused who was absconding. During the interrogation, it was revealed that Marimuthu was a 'strange person' who did not socialise with anyone. When he was eleven years old, he reportedly committed a murder in the Vijayanagar area and got out after serving imprisonment.

A case of murder was registered at the Govindarajanagar police station based on the complaint filed by the deceased's wife. Marimuthu is currently in jail. –BMB

Truck accident leaves three injured

Three people were injured after a tipper truck lost control, hitting a car, a bike, and barricades in Hosur town on Saturday.

The truck driver, P Dasaradhan, allegedly fell asleep at the wheel when he was unexpectedly close to the town's entrance. He was driving from Bengaluru to a quarry near Shoolagiri. The truck hit the car and bike before striking the barricades, which resulted in a massive accident.

Veera Kesaiya, M Kalaiarasan, and Dasaradhan were the three people who sustained injuries as a result of the incident.

While Dasaradhan sustained a minor head injury, the riders both sustained leg fractures. All three were taken to the Hosur government hospital. –BMB

Counselling, just to woo voters?

Prospective election candidate from Gauribidanur plans to offer free counselling services to parents and children who are addicted to smartphones

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Dr Shashidhar Kumar wants to create awareness among the voters about the need to keep the smartphones away from themselves

Nowadays, most of the politicians are busy gifting saris, rice, pressure cookers, TV sets, and home appliances to impress voters in the forthcoming Assembly elections. However, a doctor-cum-politician has opened a counselling centre to rehabilitate youth from smart phone and internet addiction.

According to Dr HS Shashidhar Kumar, a number of youngsters and even elderly people have been complaining of lack of sleep, not realising that their addiction to smartphones is the main cause for their sleep disorder, constant headaches, and fatigue.

"I have opened a counselling centre for the benefit of parents and their children who are addicted to smartphones. The addiction not only causes psychological problems but also social issues. I have decided to offer free counselling services at our hospital in Gauribidanur and later extend them to our other hospitals, including the one in Yelahanka," said Dr Shashidhar Kumar.

Kumar is also the prospective candidate to contest in the election from Gauribidanur on BJP ticket.

He wanted to create awareness among the voters about the need to keep the smartphones away from themselves and their children instead of giving them saris, rice bags or pressure cookers, he added.

"I come across many patients and parents complaining about their children constantly using smartphones for more than six hours. I advised them to visit the counselling centre at our hospital in Gauribidanur. I want to counsel parents on how to keep a vigil on their children," he explained.

"I came across parents complaining about their children constantly using smartphones for more than six hours. I advised them to visit our hospital –Dr Shashidhar

Kumar and his wife, recently celebrated Valentine's Day by performing 75 eye surgeries for the patients from economically weaker families at Manasa Hospital.

Dr KS Rathna said that an individual is spending on an average about 6 to 8 hours a day using smartphones in some form or the other by watching viral, porn videos, browsing dating apps, listening to music, texting, playing online games, chatting, and checking mail.

The doctor couple who runs a chain of hospitals under the name of Manasa Hospitals wants to help the sleep deprived individuals in becoming more productive. The digital detoxification process is temporary wherein the individual is off smartphones, television, internet, and social media sites.

'Reservation not enough for Vokkaligas'

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Rajya Vokkaligara Meesalathi Horata Samithi has welcomed the state Cabinet's decision to increase the reservation for Vokkaligas in the state under the 2C category. The State Cabinet on Friday increased the reservation for Vokkaligas from 4 per cent to 6 per cent.

"We welcome the State Cabinet's decision to increase the reservation for Vokkaligas from 4 per cent to 6 per cent. However, we will continue to demand for 12 per cent reservation for Vokkaligas in the state. It is our long-pending demand," said Rajya Vokkaligara Meesalathi Horata Samithi president Dr Ganam Srikantaiah.

Vokkaliga community has 115 sub-castes, and majority of them are depending on agriculture for livelihood, he informed.

The community plans to continue their agitation for the increase of reservation from 6% to 12%

"We have been demanding the government to increase the reservation for Vokkaligas from 4 per cent to 12 per cent for the last three years but the government has increased it from 4 per cent to 6 per cent," he explained.

Further, Rajya Vokkaligara Meesalathi Horata Samithi convenor auditor Nagaraj Yalachawadi said that Vokkaligas would continue their agitation for the increase of reservation.

"Vokkaligas are not getting reservation in jobs on par with their population. We want the state government to increase the reservation for Vokkaligas from 6 per cent to 12 per cent in the near future," he said.

It may be recalled that Ganam Srikantaiah, who is also president of Mysuru, Kittur, and Karavali Karnataka Hitharakshana Samiti, opposed reservation for candidates from Hyderabad-Karnataka region, which is also known as Kalyana Karnataka, in local bodies such as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), and the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) on March 16.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Political move

Union Home Minister Amit Shah who was in Bengaluru on Friday sprang a surprise. As Shah alighted from his car, Yediyurappa stepped forward to offer the bouquet but the Home Minister told him to give it to his younger son, and chose to accept it from him. A beaming Shah and Vijayendra, who also got a pat on the back from the former BJP president, then posed for photographers. Later photographs showed Vijayendra personally serving breakfast to Shah. The gesture assumes significance as it's seen by some in the party that Yediyurappa's political heir apparent, who is the party's state vice-president, as someone who may play a bigger role as the party prepares for the Assembly elections, which are due by May.

Time will tell

Leader of Opposition Siddaramaiah and KPCC president DK Shivakumar were seen sitting in hot sun protesting against the state government. This was when DK Shivakumar removed the watch from his hand and asked Siddu to know the exact time so that he could update his watch. However, as the video clips went viral, political grapevine was that this looked like a curtain raiser for the forthcoming results as to whose time will be better. Both the Congress leaders are considered to be challengers for the CM's chair if the Congress is voted to power in the next elections. Now, only time will tell as to whose time was right?

Silence matters

It is quite common to hear teachers in the classroom trying to discipline students and maintain silence. For a change, Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai was playing the role of a class teacher. During a recent political rally, Bommai began to speak but looked visibly disturbed when Mangaluru South MLA Vedavyas Kamath was speaking to other leaders. In front of the public, Bommai chided BJP MLA, asking him to keep silent for at least five minutes. "You should have the patience to listen to others speak as well," Bommai was heard saying.

Gifting mosquito nets

As the election approaches fast, it is time for netas to distribute gifts. So far, cookers seem to be one of the popular gifts distributed among voters. However, a few political parties in Shivamogga have taken a different approach by distributing mosquito nets. When questioned by journalists, a political leader said, "When we wanted to distribute cookers, people took exception, saying that they already had cookers at home. However, with summer approaching, mosquitoes are a major concern. Although we cannot promise a mosquito-free environment, we can at least provide mosquito nets so that people can sleep peacefully. Therefore, we are distributing these nets." Surprisingly, there was a huge rush from people to bag these nets.

–Sridhar Vivan

To teach its own: BBMP has equipped schools, colleges

'All teaching staff vacancies filled up at Palike institutions; infra in place, books, uniform given and process on to hire agency for guards, cleaners'

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has begun the selection of agencies to supply security guards and cleaning staff for its schools and colleges in the West Zone. "As of now there are no vacancies of teaching staff at BBMP schools and colleges. There was one vacancy, but I ensured it was filled up immediately," said BBMP Deputy Commissioner (Education) Venkat Raju.

He also dispelled the poor image that people have about the quality of education at the schools and colleges maintained by the BBMP. "We have given all the infrastructure to BBMP schools and colleges. Students are given books, uniforms, socks, shoes and sweaters. We are not compromising on the quality of teaching at the institutions," said the Deputy Commissioner.

He said CCTV cameras had been fixed at all the schools and colleges and are being monitored at the BBMP Head Office. "It is compulsory for the teachers to take classes without fail. I assumed office recently. I plan to visit five to 10 schools every day," he said.

The BBMP West Zone Executive Engineer (Project Division) has floated a short term tender inviting the service providers to provide security guards and cleaning staff for the BBMP schools and colleges in the West Zone. The estimated amount to be spent for hiring security guards is Rs 4,74,50,700 and Rs 94,95,185 for cleaning staff. The last date for submitting the tender forms is March 29.

Parents need much more to be convinced that BBMP schools are up to the mark, activists say

The BBMP's proactive measures were appreciated by child rights and social activists. Nagasimha G Rao, Director of Child Rights Trust, said the state education department should follow the BBMP Education Department in filling up all vacancies of teaching staff.

"These measures will help the public, especially parents, to change their opinion on the quality of education at the BBMP schools and colleges. All these years, the parents used to think the quality of education is very poor at the BBMP schools and colleges," said Rao.

However, HM Venkatesh, a social activist from Judicial Layout, said the BBMP has failed to provide books, uniforms, socks and shoes to the students on time. "I appreciate the Deputy Commissioner (Education) for taking measures to improve the quality of education at the schools and colleges but I am not sure how long this official will continue in office because it is difficult for such officers to continue in service due to political interference," said Venkatesh.

> **Building schools is not enough to meet students' needs. Selection of efficient teachers is also important**
>
> –Prakash Babu, social activist

Emphasising on the importance of quality teaching, Prakash Babu BK, a social activist from Mahalakshmi Layout, said the main reason for negative opinion of the BBMP schools and colleges is the medium of instruction. "Parents want their children to join English medium schools. As long as the medium of instruction is not in English, there is no chance for quality of education. Mere construction of school buildings will not cater to the needs of the students. Selection of efficient teachers is also important to improve the quality of education," Prakash Babu said.

Stung, students write exam at hospital

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Students were attacked by bees while they were waiting at the centre for an entrance examination for the 6th class enrollment of Adarsh Vidyalaya in Kushtagi, on Sunday. The students who were attacked were admitted to the hospital and they wrote the exams from the hospital.

The exam centres were at Buttibasaveshwara High School and Junior College, Guruchannabasaveshwara High School, Girls' Government Junior College (High School Section), Boys' Junior Section (High School Section), Sangolli Rayanna High School and Christian King Schools in Kushtagi. The incident took place when students from many villages including Hiremannapur, Taluvagera, Nidsheshi of Kushtagi taluk came to write the exam at Christian King School.

Students writing exam while undergoing treatment at hospital

Bees from a hive on a tree in the premises of the school suddenly attacked the students and parents gathered there. Among the many injured students, three were treated at the Kushtagi Taluk Hospital and they wrote the exam from the hospital bed. They were given IV fluid on one hand and wrote the test with the other hand.

> **Bees attack students, parents gathered for entrance exam at a centre in Kushtagi; 3 children were hurt**

Deputy Director of School Education and Literacy Department, MA Reddare said, "No student who was attacked by bees were left out. Staff members of our department were assigned to the hospital and arrangements were made for the three students to take up the exam from the hospital itself," he said.

IN BRIEF

Olympian surprise at school

Children in a Bengaluru school were left astounded as India's first-ever Olympic champion in Track and Field, Neeraj Chopra, surprised them in their classroom with his unannounced visit.

Chopra, who is back in India between training stints, arrived at Vishwa Vidyapeeth in Yelahanka here on Saturday and spent time with the young children, who are all part of the school's sports programme.

"It makes me really happy whenever I am able to put a smile on the faces of young children, and this was even more special because they were not expecting me to be there," Neeraj was quoted as saying in a media release.

"I had some time between arriving in Bengaluru and going to an event, and I am happy that I could make the best use of it. I hope that meeting me will inspire them in their journey as young athletes," he added.

Chopra, who is also set to visit Inspire Institute of Sport in Bellary, spent time speaking to the young children, signing autographs and recalling his Olympic Gold-winning feat.

The most special moment of the day came when 30-odd children joined Chopra in reliving the National Anthem played at his Medal Ceremony at the Tokyo Olympic games. **IANS**

Donskoy top draw at ITF Mysuru Open

Evgeny Donskoy will headline the singles main draw which includes eight Indians for the ITF Mysuru Open 2023, scheduled to start at the Mysuru Tennis Club here on Monday.

The 32-year-old Donskoy, who was once ranked 65 in the world, made the headlines in 2017 when he earned the biggest win of his career by beating tennis great Roger Federer in Dubai. The Russian also has wins over tennis stars Daniil Medvedev and Canadian big-server Milos Raonic before they broke into the Top 10.

The USD 25,000 event-hosted by the Karnataka Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) and sponsored by Cycle Pure Agarbathi, also marks the return of ITF tennis to Mysuru after eight years. India's Ramkumar Ramanathan had won the title when Mysuru hosted an ITF tournament, an F6 Futures event, last time in 2015, the organisers informed in a release on Sunday. "Mysuru has always been a premier centre for tennis in India and we are happy to bring a top-level ITF tennis tournament after eight years. I am certain that the event will go a long way in inspiring youth and furthering the development of tennis in the city as well as in Karnataka. We are confident of conducting a successful tournament here," said Maheshwar Rao, Honorary Secretary, KSLTA. **PTI**

WHAT DOESN'T SKILL YOU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Amrutha, an employee at a reputed tech firm, told BM.

She further added that the programming language she was taught in her bachelor's degree as well as the training sessions were not useful as she was part of a project that did not align with her acquired skill sets.

According to the terms and conditions of several organisations, it is mandatory for newly appointed employees to either find a project of their choice or enroll themselves in an assigned project, or resign within the designated time if unable to do so. Some organisations even withhold salaries until trainees find a project to work on.

"We were assigned different domains; we did not get an opportunity to choose the domain we wanted to work on. I come from an Electronics, Communication and Engineering background; I was put into Automation Testing which is a completely different domain. We were asked to learn a programming language on our own with the help of online videos and tutorials. I ended up in a project that was a 'degraded' version of what I had learnt. Quitting was not an option because of the one-year contract; leaving the job without working on a project would have still made me a fresher in a new company forcing me to go through the entire training process because of the lack of experience," said an IT employee who prefers to remain anonymous.

"There is a huge difference between what students are taught in classrooms and what the industry expects from us. The industry is rapidly developing in terms of technology. The fact is, the framework of the education system is quite simple and basic whereas the industry is quite advanced," Bhavana Chandrashekar told Bangalore Mirror.

"The fear of being unemployed and the uncertainty of landing a new job kept me waiting even though I saw many of my batchmates already working on projects in the same company; it disheartened me," said a fresher at a tech firm.

Another IT professional pointed out the unfair practices of the industry. Although she was happy with the initial pay scale, she found the concept of equal pay of freshers on the bench as well as freshers working on projects unfair.

"Unlike old times, students are looking at choices that yield more income. During our time, we would follow a passion, and money was never an issue. Today, we live in a society where everything is expensive. There is a huge gap between the education system and the industry; that said, several educational institutions are trying to bridge the gap by providing practical knowledge apart from just focusing on theoretical knowledge," an engineering educator told BM.

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I Babu V S r/o No 1600 40th Cross 18th Main Jayanagar 4th T Block Bengaluru 560041 have changed my Minor Son's name from Pavith Pranshu to Pancham B Abhiram. Vide Affidavit dt.24/03/2023 Before Notary R S Vijay, B'luru

I, ROLLA CHAMUNDESWARA REDDY R/o: 3-2-6/54, Pathuru, Narasaraopet, Andhra Pradesh have changed my Name as ROLLA SRI CHAMUNDESWAR REDDY.

I Siddharth Rajesh Nair S/O, Rekha Chethanath Nair R/o A3 008 Cauvery Block National Games Village have changed my name to Siddharth Nair

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IPL 2023: Kohli sends fans into frenzy with big hits in RCB's practice session

Virat Kohli with Chris Gayle and AB de Villiers at Chinnaswamy stadium on Sunday

As the 16th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is around the corner, Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) made a much-anticipated return to the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium after a three-year hiatus, here on Sunday.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the team management allowed the fans to watch the full squad practice session at the RCB Unbox on Sunday. The excitement was palpable among the fans, who were eagerly waiting for their favorite team to return to the pitch.

Around 30 thousand fans turned up at the Chinnaswamy Stadium and couldn't believe their luck as they walked into the stadium to watch their heroes in action.

The atmosphere was electric as the chants of "Kohli...Kohli... Kohli" echoed through the stadium. The fans were in full frenzy as they saw their former captain step up to the nets. The anticipation was palpable as everyone waited with bated breath to see the master in action.

Kohli seemed to be in a great mood as he hit some massive hits toward the stands. The fans went wild as they watched the ball soar high up into the sky.

The excitement was contagious as everyone present in the stadium felt the energy surge through their veins. It was a truly magical moment and one that the fans would never forget.

RCB will begin their IPL 2023 campaign against the five-time champions Mumbai Indians on April 1 here at the M.Chinnaswamy Stadium.—**IANS**

Senior citizens await pension

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

many individuals had not been getting their pensions regularly. The survey across seven wards in the city revealed that the primary reason for the pension delay was that the PPO IDs (pension payment order IDs) and bank accounts of these individuals were not linked to their PAN and Aadhaar cards. Moreover, the mobile numbers declared while obtaining their Aadhaar cards are no longer available with them, hindering the OTP verification process.

As a result, they are unable to access medicines at Public Health Centres (PHCs) and rations through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Pension is the only option for them, and if that too is discontinued, essentially their lives are at stake.

"Some individuals who followed the instructions received pension only for the current month and not for the previous months. Many others are unable to link their Aadhaar cards as instructed. Some of them are very old and unable to go to the Nadakacheri to link their cards. They need a facility where the government can send in some officials or volunteers who can do it at door steps. Many do not have any transport facilities; some of the elderly cannot even walk by themselves," Jhansi, member of Slum Mahila Sanghatane said.

Shivagami, a 45 -year -old lady, suffering from hearing disability, living with her 80-year-old mother, has no source of income.

"My pension has stopped for five months now. I can't even afford one meal. I am struggling everyday to meet my daily needs. I'm unable to provide for my mother. Only if someone from a nearby colony brings us food we get to eat or we sleep hungry."

Nandini from ActionAid who was a part of the survey pointed out that this is a survey of only about seven wards; in fact there would be many more people in the entire city struggling to get pensions.

"The government should conduct a state-wide survey to address these issues and ensure that all senior citizens are receiving pensions on time. The tahsildar revealed that by April 30, there will be permanent cancellation of pensions of those whose Aadhaar cards are not linked. Many people do not even know about this. The government should distribute circulars and create awareness-raising programmes to ensure everyone is aware of the process and procedures," she said.

The members pointed out that the tahsildar asked them to get people to the office to help out with the card linkage starting from Monday. However the case of those who cannot come by themselves remains a worry.

HEALTH TIP: Eat light, small, frequent meals as heavy meals with large amounts of carbohydrates and fats give rise to a lot of heat in the body

In-season produce is not only delicious but also more affordable; adding fresh fruits and vegetables to your diet boosts your immune system

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Co-parenting impacts children

...it can be positive or negative depending on factors

Researchers discovered that in a sample of low-income couples, children fared best when both parents had high expectations for their co-parenting relationship, and the poorest when they had low expectations.

In the study, published online recently in the journal Child Development, participants were asked about their co-parenting relationship with their partner -- in other words, how they related to each other as parents.

Sarah Schoppe-Sullivan, the study's lead author and a psychology professor at The Ohio State University as well as the president of the board of the Council on Contemporary Families, noted that when couples perceived their co-parenting relationship as moderately good but mothers and fathers had different perspectives on one another as co-parents, the outcomes for the children varied.

"The best outcome for children was when both parents saw their co-parenting relationship as positive. But children were almost as well-adjusted when the relationship quality was moderate and mothers were less positive about co-parenting relative to fathers," Schoppe-Sullivan said.

Child outcomes suffered, though, when it was fathers who were less positive about co-parenting, the study revealed.

Previous studies have shown that parents with better co-parenting relationships are more effective as parents and their children are more well-adjusted -- for example, they have fewer behaviour problems and better social relationships with others. But most of the previous research has been done in economically better off families and relied solely on mothers' perspectives on the co-parenting relationship.

The participants in this new study were 2,915 low-income couples who took part in the Supporting Healthy Marriages program. All couples had a child under five years old.

Participants were asked about their co-parenting relationship with their partner -- in other words, how they related to each other as parents.

"Co-parents with high-quality relationships provide emotional support to one another and back up each other's parenting decisions," Schoppe-Sullivan said.

Eighteen months after couples reported on their co-parenting relationship, they were asked to report on their child's social competence and behavioural adjustment.

Based on the reports from mothers and fathers about their co-parenting relationship, the researchers identified four co-parenting groups. The largest – 43 per cent of the sample -- were the parents who both saw their co-parenting relationship as highly positive.

> **"Previous studies have shown that parents with better co-parenting relationships are more effective as parents and their children are more well-adjusted**

The next largest group (32 per cent were parents who both saw their relationship as moderately positive, but mothers were less positive about fathers' co-parenting.

"Their children were nearly as well-adjusted as parents who were both positive about their co-parenting relationship," Schoppe-Sullivan said.

The fact that these two groups made up the majority of the sample was a significant finding, Schoppe-Sullivan said.

"Low-income couples often face a variety of challenges that can make parenting more difficult than it is for middle-class couples, so it is encouraging that three-quarters of them had co-parenting relationships that led to good outcomes for their children," she said.

The next largest group (16 per cent were those who reported a moderate-quality co-parenting relationship, but the fathers were less positive than the mothers. The fourth group (9 per cent consisted of couples who reported low-quality co-parenting relationships, with the mothers especially critical of the fathers.

These two groups had children who were less well-adjusted than kids in the other groups. One question the study raises is why children are less well-adjusted when fathers are less positive than mothers about their co-parenting relationship.

The data from the study can't answer that conclusively, Schoppe-Sullivan said. But the study did show that psychologically distressed dads were more likely to be in the "fathers less positive" group than in other groups.

Distressed dads may prompt mothers to push them away from parenting duties, which may lead fathers to develop further psychological problems and be less happy about their co-parenting role.

"That may lead to more conflict between the parents, more disagreement on parenting decisions, and less positive engagement between fathers and their children," Schoppe-Sullivan said.

"All that may play a role in their children's poorer adjustment."

When mothers are less positive than fathers, that may indicate that mothers feel that fathers are not contributing enough to parenting, she said. Given that it is common for mothers to feel that way, it may not lead to as much conflict between the parents as when fathers are less positive, which may be why the children are relatively well-adjusted.

Overall, the results suggest that practitioners who work with parents may want to pay special attention when fathers are less positive than mothers about their co-parenting relationship, she said. **-ANI**

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I've been with my husband for 12 years and we have been married for nine of those. I'm going to be 39 next month and we have a sonand a daughter.
I'm not in love with him any more and want out of the marriage. This hasn't been an overnight decision - I've been unhappy for years.
We had a big heart-to-heart about a year ago and I told him how I felt. He was hurt and started making a big effort to please me, but it didn't make any difference to how I felt, which is how I know it's over for me.
It's not about specific issues in the marriage, I've just fallen out of love He's a good person and I'm finding it hard to live with the guilt. I've confided in a couple of good friends and their reaction didn't help, as they seemed shocked.
I feel like a terrible person.

COLEEN SAYS

You're not a bad person – it's just a really sad situation and you're struggling with guilt because he hasn't done anything terrible.
I think it can be harder to leave in these circumstances.
I'm sure your friends were sad to hear about how you feel but they're not married to your husband. You can't stay with him because leaving him will upset your friends.
If you want to separate as gently and kindly as possible, start thinking about how you could do it. Joint counselling sessions can be a good idea to help you through the process.
You don't know how your husband will react. He may be angry and might not be willing to make things easy. But at the heart of this is your children's wellbeing, so put them first.
We can't force ourselves to feel something we don't.

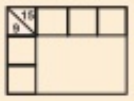
—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

The square of ¾ of depth of swimming pool is nine times its depth? How deep is the pool?

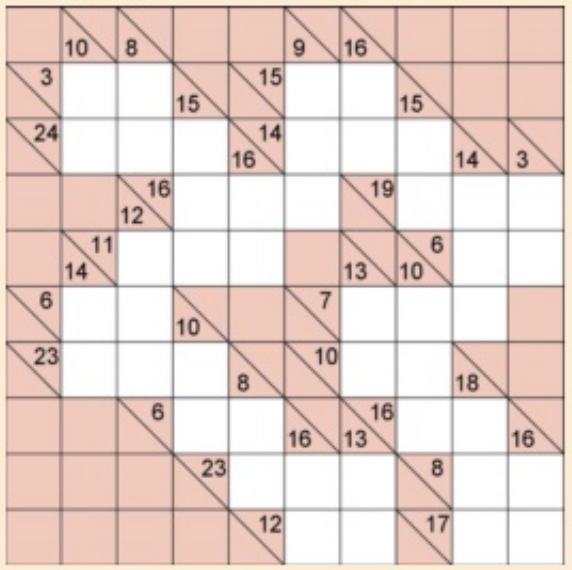
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



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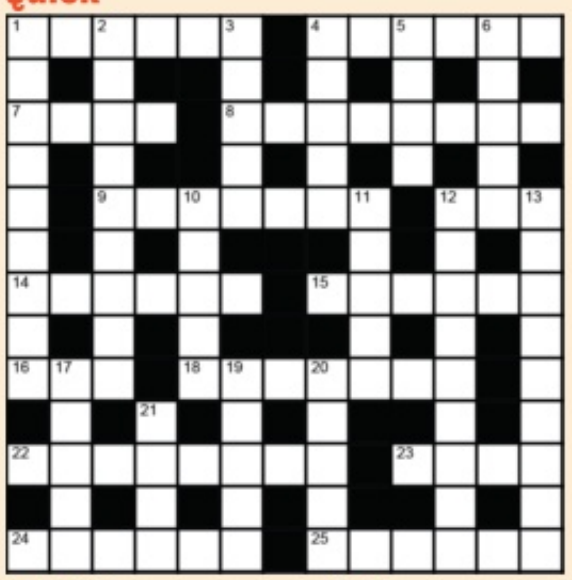


ACROSS

1 Wilts (6)
4 Wealth (6)
7 Harvest corn (4)
8 Rise and fall (8)
9 Temple town in Uttara Kannada (7)
12 Art degs. (3)
14 Involve necessarily (6)
15 Highly esteemed (6)
16 __ drop silence (3)
18 Shattered violently (7)
22 Camera accessory (8)
23 Eye part (4)
24 Short-sightedness? (6)
25 Annually (6)

DOWN

1 Very inexpensive (4,5)
2 Large ape (5-4)
3 Steam bath (5)
4 French sculptor (5)
5 Lacking warm friendliness (4)
6 Bit player (5)
10 Weaves wool (5)
11 Strike with shame? (5)
12 Ordered a person to do something, especially keep peace? (5,4)
13 Inactive, resting (9)
17 Set or embed in another material (5)
19 Molten rock (5)
20 Shining, light-hearted (5)
21 Initials on a brandy bottle (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS S

N JDRHPSRR GHOS NP NDXV-LVJHGS, ENR XV JS YBHISP, HP VBYSB XV ASX BSRDGXR.

Linemaro

Me without you is like a nerd without braces, a shoe without laces, aSentenceWithoutSpaces

Mindchow

Perfect happiness is the absence of striving for happiness

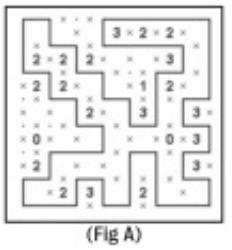
Joke of the day

Dance master: You would be a good dancer except for two things. Actor: What two things? Dance master: Your feet

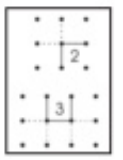
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

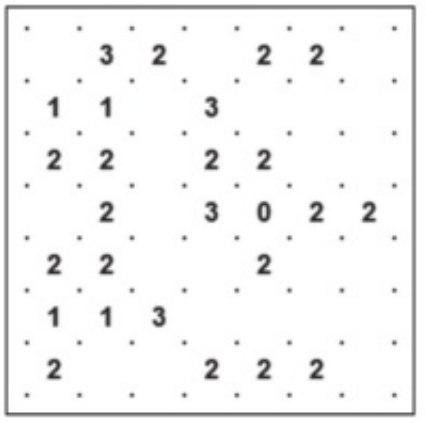


(Fig B) Not Allowed

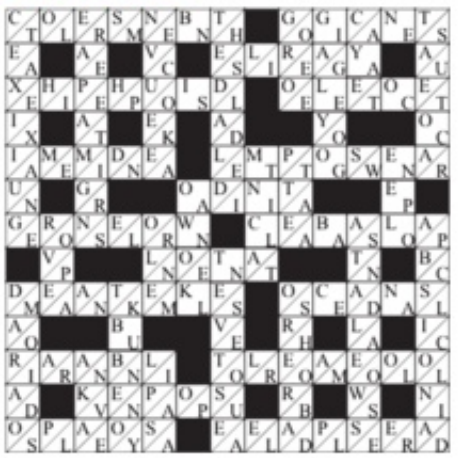
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



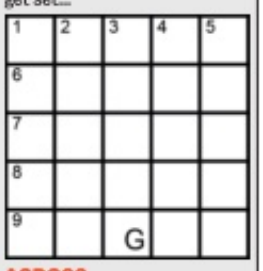
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

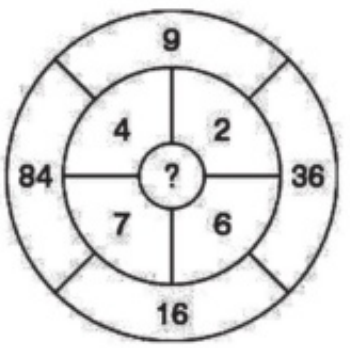
1 Off SC; 6 Where; 7 Aries; 8 Siren; 9 Gaped

DOWN

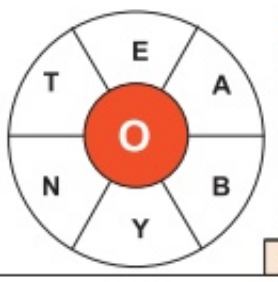
1 Harps; 2 Erica; 3 No wig; 4 S fees; 5 Defer

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

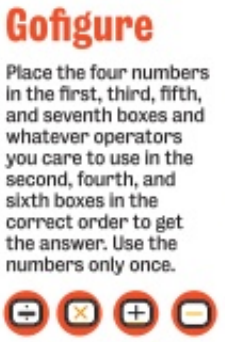
SudokuChallenge

1			2		3			5
2				4				8
	3	6				2	1	
5	1						7	9
			3		5			
7	6						3	4
	2	8				4	9	
9				1				3
6			8		9			2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 16: 8 8 9 9

Medium = 26: 2 2 7 8

Hard = 7: 1 4 8 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

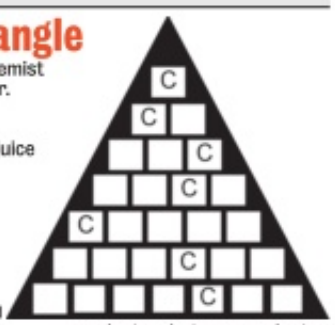
Differences: 1. Dog's tail is moved. 2. Hand is lower. 3. Leash is different. 4. Doorknob is added. 5. Spot is added to dog's head. 6. Neckline of sweater is different.

Riddler

In each of the following words, three letters, indicated by "'s, are missing. Each missing triplet is the name of an animal. Can you fill them in so that each creates a common word? EDU'''ION PRE'''SOR BR'''RY PY'''ID

Alpha triangle

1 Carbon for the chemist
2 Common Era, abbr.
3 Last mo.
4 Chop fine
5 Fermented apple juice
6 Valued at
7 Perforated



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

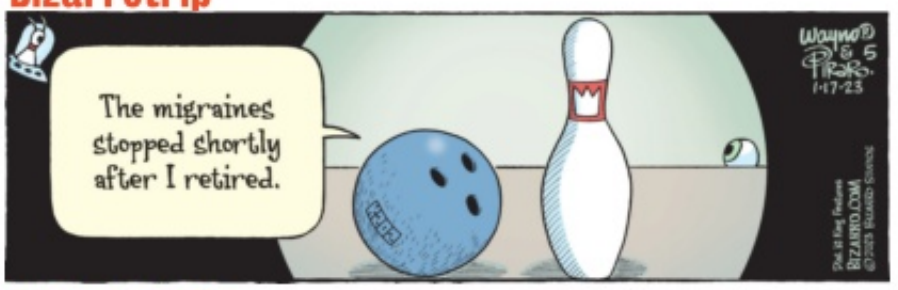
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

I NEVER NOTICED THAT HOLE IN YOUR TRUNK BEFORE
...WELL, IT SORT OF COMES AND GOES
I'M GOING TO HURT HIS FEELINGS IF I DON'T STOP THAT YAWNING WHEN HE'S AROUND

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

WHOA! LET'S GO WATCH!
DO YOU THINK THEY'RE STILL TAKING APPLICANTS?
YOU'RE THINKING OF APPLYING?!
YEAH, I HAVE A PRETTY HIGH TOLERANCE FOR SPICY FOOD! I THINK I HAVE A CHANCE!
ONE, PLEASE!

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be happy due to blessings from an auspicious planetary combination. You may help needy persons, which may increase your prestige among people around you. You may spend your time studying intellectual stuff.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, the start of the day may be dull. After late evening, you may control negativity. New people may connect with you on the work front. With their help, you may try to revamp your business plans. It is advised to read documents before putting your signature.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, with the help of blessings, you may gain control over your indecisiveness. Your kids' health is better now. Your colleagues may be supportive in your work, which will convert into success in terms of projects. You may expect to receive some incentives with your salary. Natives related to dairy, water projects, grains, homemaking, art, and culture may do well.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be busy with domestic issues. You might take an interest in artefacts, movies, and fashion, which may improve your creativity. You may spend money on buying some artefacts, household stuff, which will improve your social status. You may become more polite with others. You may also plan to visit some desired places for family or friends.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may be happier, and your internal vitality will boost your self-confidence. You will feel relaxed after a sound sleep. You should avoid carelessness in making decisions related to finance, profession, and studies. You may likely enjoy some romantic moments with your spouse. Sometimes, you may face self-respect issues. Avoid turning happy moments into bad moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, your tendency to overspend may affect your savings. You should be careful while expressing yourself on the work and domestic front. You should avoid lending money and postpone making important decisions in real estate and other asset issues. You should try to avoid the tendency of elevation from your responsibilities.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, with the help of your strong network, you may implement your business plans. You may use your wisdom to gain profits. You may also have harmony in your domestic life, and there may be good understanding between you and your spouse. Those related to metal and booking agents will do better.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be passionate in terms of work. You should avoid mixing your brain with your heart while making important decisions. It is advised to follow your intuition before making decisions related to business, job, and investments. Workload may be there, but the blessing from elders may help you control this messy situation.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, since morning, you may have some peace in your mind, and you are not in a hurry today, which may reflect in your way of working. Your destiny may help you complete your postponed projects and targets. You may show patience in your domestic life in maintaining harmony. You may have some skin and stomach related issues.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be a victim of negative thoughts, and you may feel dull. Your impatient nature and arrogance may hold you back from making difficult decisions. You may need the blessings of your elders, which will help you grow in your work front. You should avoid making investments in dead assets. Love birds should avoid discussing bad moments.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today is good for your work, and you may be able to perform well in terms of work. Your boss may likely give you some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Disputes with your partner may be settled down. You may lend money to make your assets. Your kids' health may be better now. You may likely make some investments for your kids' future.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. Love will be in the air in terms of your personal life, and singles may find a suitable match. You may also do well in your professional life, with support from your friends and subordinate staff. Investing in gems and jewellery may lead to positive gains in the near future. However, you should also be careful about the health of your elders.

KIDZONE

Frinjo Willium, 8 Years, St. Lawrence English School

Shirin Pajnoo, 11 Years, Kendriya Vidyalaya

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(9d-2)/16 = 9d; d/16 = 1
d = 16 units
Verification: 3/4th of 16 = 12; Square of 12 = 144
9 times 16 = 144

RIDDLER
Cat, Curr, Ewe, Ram, Making, Education, Precursor, Brewery, Pyramid.

BULL'S EYE
aeon, atone, baton, tone
BAYONET, boat, bone, bony, botany, ebony, note, obey,

QUOTE UNCODE
A business like an automobile, has to be driven, in order to get results.

FAST FIVE

S	C	O	F	F
H	E	W	E	R
A	R	I	S	E
R	I	N	S	E
P	A	G	E	D

STRIKE OUT

S	L	A	Y	S	■	E	L	A	P	S	E	D	■	■
D	■	K	N	A	P	S	■	B	S	■	N	■	■	■
I	R	A	N	I	■	T	R	E	M	O	L	O	■	■
A	■	U	■	E	H	■	L	■	C	■	■	■	■	■
M	A	N	T	E	L	S	■	S	C	A	N	S	■	■
■	V	■	■	■	O	■	■	■	A	■	■	■	■	■
G	O	S	L	O	M	■	C	A	B	A	L	A	■	■
N	■	R	■	A	D	I	T	■	T	■	E	■	■	■
I	M	I	D	E	■	E	M	P	O	W	E	R	■	■
T	■	A	■	K	■	D	■	O	■	R	■	O	■	■
X	I	P	H	O	I	D	■	E	L	E	C	T	■	■
A	■	E	■	V	■	E	L	E	G	Y	■	L	■	■
T	O	R	M	E	N	T	■	G	I	A	N	T	■	■

QUICK

M	Y	O	P	I	A	■	Y	E	A	R	L	Y	■	■
A	■	O	■	M	■	N	■	E	■	R	■	■	■	■
F	L	A	S	H	G	U	N	■	U	V	E	A	■	■
N	■	V	■	A	■	U	■	O	■	T	■	■	■	■
P	I	N	■	S	M	A	S	H	E	D	■	N	■	■
A	■	A	T	■	S	■	N	■	■	E	■	■	■	■
E	N	T	A	I	L	■	V	A	L	U	E	D	■	■
H	■	U	■	N	■	B	■	O	■	E	■	■	■	■
C	■	G	O	K	A	R	N	A	■	B	A	S	■	■
T	■	N	■	I	■	O	■	R	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	E	A	P	■	U	N	D	U	L	A	T	E	■	■
I	■	R	■	O	■	O	■	X	■	■	■	■	■	■
O	R	O	O	P	S	■	R	I	C	H	E	S	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
3: the numbers in the outside ring, top and bottom are arrived at by adding, ie 4 + 2 = 3 - 9 and 7 + 6 = 3 - 16. The numbers in the outside ring and right are arrived at by multiplying, ie 4 × 7 + 3 = 3 - 36

SUDOKU

1	8	7	2	6	3	9	4	5
2	5	9	1	4	7	3	6	8
4	3	6	5	9	8	2	1	7
5	1	3	6	2	4	8	7	9
8	9	4	3	7	5	1	2	6
7	6	2	9	8	1	5	3	4
3	2	8	7	5	6	4	9	1
9	7	5	4	1	2	6	8	3
6	4	1	8	3	9	7	5	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, CE, Dec, Dice, Cider, Priced, Pierced.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 8 - 2 × 2 = 26
Medium
9 + 8 - 9 + 8 = 16
Hard
3 - 4 x 1 + 8 = 7

LOOP

KAKURO

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Opening shot
Filmmaker Sudhanshu Saria's introspective drama 'Sanaa' starring Radhika Madan will open the UK Asian Film Festival, the makers said on Sunday

SANDALWOOD
SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

War memories

Well-known movie director and wildlife photographer K Shivarudraiah is busy with the release of his latest Kannada movie Signal Man – 1971. This movie is based on the first person horror and mystery novel Signal-Man written by Charles Dickens.

"Charles Dickens' novel Signal-Man inspired me a lot. I discussed about it with Prakash Belawadi who improvised the script for Indian sensibilities. It is a story from the Indo-Pakistan war in December 1971 set in a railway station in the western region. Though there is a station, no train halts here," said director Shivarudraiah.

Elaborating on the story, Shivarudraiah said a photographer meets Balu, the signal man at the station. "The rest of the tale unravels the lonely life of the signal man and his troubled past," the director said.

Prakash Belawadi plays a different role in this movie. "Shivarudraiah explained the concept to me and asked me to improvise the story and act in this movie. It was shot in Ooty, Kottigehara, Chikmagalur and Bengaluru. A huge set, of a railway station, was built for the shooting. I appreciate the co-stars and technicians for their cooperation," said Belawadi.

The film has been selected for screening at the ongoing 14th edition of Bengaluru International Film Festival in Asian Cinema Competition section on March 26 and 29.

Perfect, with flaws

Dia explains how an actor evolves

Actor Dia Mirza says she is delighted to see diverse parts written for women today, but she tends to gravitate more towards "positive" characters that can be imperfect. Mirza said fans will see her in a different light in her latest release 'Bheed', directed by Anubhav Sinha which hit the screens on Friday.

In the social drama, the actor plays the role of Geetanjali, an elite woman stuck on the road amid the pandemic-induced lockdown making it impossible for her to reach her child.

"It all depends on the imagination of the filmmaker. We all suffer from being stereotyped and the problem of being boxed. The choices that we make, the things that we say, we can create our own path.

"I am quite kicked with the diversity of parts but I tend to resonate more with positive parts. Also, human beings even while they are positive, they can also be flawed. I find that interesting," the 41-year-old actor told PTI in an interview.

> "Today, the kind of roles that I am playing are connected to reality

Over the years, Mirza said her choices have evolved and today she consciously chooses parts that are closer to reality.

"Early part of my career went in understanding who I am, what I want, and what I don't want. Today, the kind of roles that I am playing are connected to reality, connected to everyday life of people, and their struggles and issues.

—PTI

LOOK BOOK

Gauri Khan who has carved her own identity for being one of the best interior designers of Bollywood is all set to launch a 'coffee table book' now. Gauri took to Instagram and shared a picture with husband Shah Rukh Khan and kids Suhana Khan, Aryan Khan and Abram and made the announcement.

She wrote, "Family is what makes a home...Excited for the coffee table book... coming soon."

While many fans thought seeing this family picture that perhaps a coffee table book on their family would be launched, Gauri's hashtags suggest that this is perhaps a book comprising her designs. Several celebs commented on this picture and showered love. Karisma Kapoor, Maheep Kapoor and Shweta Bachchan Nanda dropped hearts while Neelam Kothari wrote, "Gorgeous picture!"

—ETimes

She's going places

Iti Acharya of Kannada movie Kavacha fame has been on cloud nine ever since she realised her dream of making a debut in Hollywood. Iti appears in a music video produced in association with rapper Merlin Babaji.

"I have known Merlin Babaji for the last one year and am a fan. He wrote the song – Love Her Too Much – and I liked the song. I told him that I will act in the song," said Iti.

Iti's brother Abhi Acharya is in the US and a nominee for Grammy award for 2023. "I came to know Merlin through my brother. It has become easy for me to have contacts with people in the US because of my brother," she said.

Iti has the privilege of having appeared on the Times Square billboard in New York city.

She has acted in Kannada movies such as Badmash, Panganama, Deal Raja, and Kavacha. She has also acted in Malayalam movies Kerala Today and Kili Poyi, Tamil movie Semma Botha Aagathey and Bengali movie Teesta Parer Kainya.

For her, the Kannada movie Kavacha was a big-budget movie in which Dr Shivarajkumar played the lead. She played a Punjabi girl in the movie. Iti hails from Rajasthan and grew up in Punjab and is now settled in Bengaluru.

She is the winner of Miss South India for the year 2016 and became a producer by bankrolling movies under the RVSP Production House banner. She had the privilege of walking on the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival last year.

—Y Maheswara Reddy